

In re Patent Application of  
COFLER ET AL.  
Serial No. 10/082,816  
Filed: FEBRUARY 25, 2002

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21,  
lines 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In this regard, the central unit includes a duplicated guard-indication register GRC, as shown in FIG. 5, in which the content is a copy of the guard-indication register GR. The duplicated register GRC ~~RGE~~ is physically linked to the register GR. The central unit further includes second deriving means MCTG able to derive a second flag signal DEGxV representative of whether the modifying instruction has or has not been processed by the unit DU. The second deriving means MCTG is able to derive the second flag signal every time the central unit receives a modifying instruction GMIx intended to modify the value of a guard indication Gx, and earlier in time than a branching instruction guarded by the guard indication Gx.-

<sup>23</sup>  
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page ~~21~~  
<sup>23</sup>  
lines ~~12~~, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The control means MCTL, furthermore, include three ~~fewer~~ control units MCO-MC2 ~~MCO-MG3~~ in which the functionality will now be described in more detail by referring to FIGS. 7 et seq. The first control unit MCO is able, every time an instruction GMIx modifying the value of the guard indication Gx is stored in the second memory DIDQ (stage 40, FIG. 7), to store the current value WRVL of the write counter WRCTR in the main field CHx of the individual register GTx associated with the guard indication Gx. Furthermore, the bit BBx (second

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